

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **Hiroshi MIZUGUCHI et al.**

Group Art Unit: **3617**

Application Number: **10/780,065**

Examiner: **Edwin L. Swinehart**

Filed: **February 18, 2004**

Confirmation Number: **2237**

For: **OUTBOARD MOTOR STEERING SYSTEM**

Attorney Docket Number: **042093**

Customer Number: **38834**

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)(4)

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 9, 2006

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/O8A. A copy of each foreign document is attached, together with a Japanese Office Action.

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, because it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits following the **Request for Continued Examination (RCE)** in the above-identified patent application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that

Application No. 10/780,065
Art Unit 3617

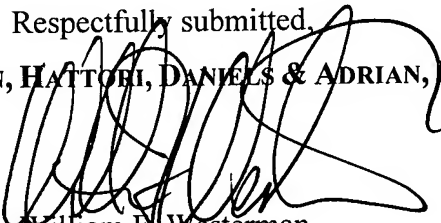
IDS under 37 CFR §1.97(b)(4)
Attorney Docket No. 042093

the documents cited in the attached Form PTO/SB/08A be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2866 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'William F. Westerman', is written over the firm name.

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WFW/dlt
Attachment: PTO/SB/08A
2 References

Combined Form PTO/SB/08A&B <div style="text-align: center;"> INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> </div>				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	10/780,065
				Confirmation Number	2237
				Filing Date	February 18, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Hiroshi MIZUGUCHI et al.
				Art Unit	3617
				Examiner Name	Edwin L. Swinehart
				Attorney Docket Number	042093
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
	1	JP	1-179098		12-21-1989		Abstract

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
	2	Japanese Office Action dated December 13, 2005	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.